



## July 2018

It has been a busy spring for AIP. I have had six different speaking engagements educating the general public on Human Trafficking. Before each event, I have to revise the statistics again and oftentimes change the numbers for the worse. It has never been for the better. So far, the presentations seem to be a good concept and everyone tells me they are so grateful to be made aware of what is going on in our own backyard. I am always met with the same comment – “I had no idea”.....

AIP has now decided to put together several different Training & Educational Seminars for different target groups. We are currently working on the curriculum for these. We have enough experts on the topic here in Nevada so shouldn't have to reach out to individuals from other parts of the US. Some of these trainings are going to be on a “grass root level” and I am especially looking forward to be working with small groups of parents and their sons and daughters.

If anyone would like me to speak to a group or put together specific groups for more in-depth education on the topic, please let me know and we can schedule your group in.

As I mentioned in the previous Newsletter, we have now been approved to conduct training with the Clark County School District. AIP is part of the “Nevada Sex Trafficking Awareness Campaign” and working with “10,000 Kids” and “F.R.E.E. International” to conduct training sessions for the teachers, social workers and counselors at the Middle- and High Schools. So far we have performed two sessions. As soon as school starts up again for the fall, we will plan more sessions on a regular basis. The need for the training is very evident.

In addition to working with AIP, and as Dean of the Consular Corps, I also accompany international groups invited by State Department as part of the “International Visitors Leadership Program” (IVLP) here to study how we handle Human Trafficking issues from all aspects. We generally visit the Courts and various Judges, UNLV/Department of Criminal Justice and UNLV/Kid's Court, the Mayor's Faith Based Initiative, LVMPD/Southern Nevada Human Trafficking Task Force, Salvation Army/Seeds of Hope, several Forensic Traumatologists, the Rape Crisis Center, the Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth and other organizations. The most recent groups came from Cabo Verde, Africa, plus groups from South America and Lebanon. It is very interesting to compare notes on how they handle the Trafficking epidemic versus how

we do it. The problems are basically the same, the way to approach them somewhat different. We learn from each other.

Several of AIP's Board members and I attended a two-day Conference held by the Department of Justice in June. This is the second year and both times the speakers have been phenomenal. They are flown in to speak, and, although they don't necessarily work directly with Trafficking, they are experts in their professional fields which add a different approach to the trauma and treatment we use for Trafficking victims.

In May, AIP applied for a JAG Grant (Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant) in May and was selected under the "Sex Trafficking Prevention Education Program" to receive a portion of the Grant. We are still waiting for the final funding approval from the Department of Justice. We are very excited to be selected as a recipient of a Government Grant which should open doors to receive more Grants.

AIP has a new website. [www.AIPNV.org](http://www.AIPNV.org). Please check it out. It is more streamlined and easier to navigate. And the Donation button works much better. This brings me to my plea for donations. I understand that it may not be feasible to donate larger amounts as we all have expenses to take care of. However, I am asking you to go to the donation page and hit one of the Square buttons for **monthly** automatic donations. No amount is too small. If we can get repeatable automatic donations every month, that would help us form a reliable working budget. All donations go directly to our training seminars and our "Awareness through the Arts" program. Please help.

Mark your calendars for **October 7<sup>th</sup>**, when we will kick-off the "Awareness through the Arts" program with a very different Fundraiser "**Healing Notes**". It will be our first Mini-Gala, a musical event, with special guests from Hungary and Canada in addition to some local talent. Invitations will follow and you can also find it on Eventbrite and Facebook.

Thank you again for your invaluable support. We truly appreciate it.

Cordially,

*Lena Walther*

Co-Founder, Awareness is Prevention (AIP)